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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Fifteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SECOND PART (PUBLIC)*
OF THE 55th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 6 December 1996, at 12.25 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. ALSTON

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* The summary record of the first part (closed) of the meeting appears as document E/C.12/1996/SR.55.

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GE.96-19468 (E)

The public part of the meeting was called to order at 12.25 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK (agenda item 2) (continued)

1. The CHAIRPERSON confirmed, in response to a question from Mr. TEXIER, that priority would be given at the Committee's sixteenth session to the revision of the Committee's reporting guidelines - which could also be the topic of the day of general discussion - and to the draft general comment on forced evictions.

2. Answering a question from Mr. WIMER ZAMBRANO regarding the letter of protest circulated to members a few days earlier by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Honduras, he said that no specific action had thus far been taken. Honduras was being urged to submit its report and account obviously had to be taken of the points raised by the Permanent Representative. He intended to write to the Government indicating that submissions by non-governmental organizations preceding the consideration of reports formed part of an open procedure and did not in any way prejudge the position that might be adopted by the Committee once it had had the opportunity for a careful consideration of the evidence.

3. Mr. ALVAREZ VITA said that Ms. Taya who was unable to be present, had asked him to inform the Committee that problems of interpretation had led her to make a more unfavourable assessment of the draft optional protocol than she had subsequently decided it deserved. She still believed that the draft could have been improved, but that did not mean that she was not in agreement with the text which had been adopted. Reference to her apparent dissent in the Committee's proceedings should be corrected accordingly. He was sure that members would share his pleasure at that outcome.

4. The CHAIRPERSON said that the requisite amendments would be made.

5. Mr. TEXIER indicated that members would need the final proposed text of the optional protocol in the respective languages to facilitate their work with Governments and requested that translations should be provided as soon as possible.

6. The CHAIRPERSON said that the necessary arrangements would be made. In that connection, since the Committee's report would probably not be available for some time, a separate document containing excerpts relating to the programme of action and including the draft optional protocol would be submitted for the consideration of the Commission on Human Rights.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

7. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRPERSON declared the fifteenth session closed.

The public part of the meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.